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Peninsula of Jylland

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JOHN MOSBELL
Danish Garden Seed Specialist

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Seed Conditions in Denmark and Holland



By John Mosbell

We have been in constant touch with Denmark and Holland since the German invasion of those countries, receiving our information in round-about ways through relatives and friends in other countries. It is interesting to know that during the entire war Danish seed growers continued their selection and breeding work unhindered, paying particular attention to export items and strains that have proven their value in the United States. Further improvements in new selections have also been made in cauliflower and cabbage. Already in 1943 the Danish seed growers must have had some good ideas as to when they would be able to resume foreign trading, because particular attention was paid to the increased production of American types for harvest during the fall of 1944.

The 1944 crop was satisfactory, not elaborate, but as stated, the Danish seed grower was able to pay attention to his production. Just how he managed to do his selection of American types right under the noses of the Nazis will be known

later on. Stocks in Denmark today, of cauliflower, cabbage, kale, spinach, radish, etc., are satisfactory as far as 1944 carry-over is concerned. The outlook for the 1945 crop is an average, based on returns prior to 1939; perhaps a slight increase. There are certain seeds that they need, and we have a list of them.

In spite of the fact that Holland had suffered so much more than Denmark their seed industry is in good shape. The carry-over from the 1944 crop is smaller than usual, but there will be a sufficient amount of seeds harvested this fall in Holland. This may come as a surprise to some people. Nevertheless, these are facts.

To go back to Denmark, I have received word from my mother, who I am glad to say is well. The years have been very hard, but as compared to other countries that have been under the heel of the Nazis for five years, their present condition is very much better. As you know, a considerable supply of provisions was found after the capitulation of the Nazis—food they had stored in Denmark, wishing to use Denmark as the pantry for replenishing food supply to their own people.

I was particularly pleased to see that after the Danes uncovered these caches they were distributed to neighboring countries who had suffered more than they had. I think it is a mighty fine sign. For instance, as soon as Norway was liberated, people on the peninsula of Jutland went around collecting food that was loaded on ships on Frederickshavn and shipped it across to Norway. Furthermore, one third of the Danish fishing fleet was designated to produce solely fish for liberated Norway. There were no contracts, arrangements, invoices or what-have-you. It was an immediate, voluntary effort of one free people to help a sister nation that had suffered more. Considerable food-stuff, such as pork, has also been shipped to Holland. You see that in regards to the seed industry, Denmark and Holland are to be figured as immediate sources of supply.

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